

ENTREPRENEURSHIP PROGRAMMES AND YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT: A LEEWAY TO JOB CREATION

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Abstract

Youth unemployment especially in Nigeria has become a threat to socio-economic peace and stability. However, this study was aimed at investigating the impact of entrepreneurship programmes and youth unemployment. This study was focused on the population of 64,315 habitants of Irepodun Local Government in Kwara State, where 204 sample size was arrived at and 169 copies of questionnaire was returned for analysis. This study found that entrepreneurship does influence the youth unemployment by decreasing the degree and effects on the population. The study further concludes that entrepreneurship programmes mostly floated by the government and its agencies does significantly affect the rate of youth unemployment. Lastly, the study recommends that intensive attention needs to be given to entrepreneurship programmes so as to further reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria.

Keywords: Entrepreneurship programmes, youth unemployment, Irepodun, Kwara State.

Introduction

Globally, entrepreneurship has been the next step taken to reduce the rate of youth Unemployment (Osibanjo, 2006). Alanana (2003); Okafor (2011), in their research endeavors, have brought to the fore that youth unemployment across the world has reached a great height and is likely to climb further. In Sub-Saharan Africa, youth population was estimated at 138 million people in 2002-2003, with 28.9 million, or 21 percent of them

unemployed (ILO, 2004), Youth unemployment is becoming an increasingly troublesome issue in many parts of the world. For most developing countries like Nigeria, Governments and policy makers are increasingly finding it difficult to grapple successfully with youth unemployment. This high rate of unemployment can be blamed on the lack of adequate provision for job creation in the development plans, the ever expanding

educational growth and the desperate desire on the part of youths to acquire university education irrespective of course and course contents. As a result, a number of skills acquired from the university appear dysfunctional and irrelevant (Okafor, 2011).

The magnitude of this can be appreciated if accurate statistics could be obtained from the federal bureau of statistics on the number of unemployed youths roaming the streets of Nigerian cities. However, Awogbenle and Iwuamadi (2010) observed that statistics shows that Nigeria has a youth population of eighty (80) million representing 60 percent of the total population of the country. Sixty four (64) million of them are unemployed while one million six hundred thousand (1.6 million) are underemployed.

Statement of the Problem

Youth unemployment especially in Nigeria has become a threat to socio-economic peace and stability. As the most populous country in the continent, its unemployment rate in 2011 stood at 23.9 percent with youth unemployment rate at over 50 percent, (ILO, 2013). In South Africa, the unemployment rate was 25.20 percent in the first quarter of 2013, from 24.90 in the fourth quarter of 2012. While in Kenya, the unemployment rate rose to 40.0 percent in December 2011. These authorities say it is an ill-time high. But in Ghana with the population of 24 million, their unemployment rate was put at 11% in 2012. Those in the 15-24 age brackets have unemployment rate of 25.6% twice that of the 25-44 age group and three times that of the 45-64 age groups (International Labour Organization, 2013).

The International Labour Organization (ILO) in its 2013 report put youth unemployment figures worldwide at 73 million. The rate was on the increase from 2007 to 2009, but declined significantly from 2009 to 2010, and increased again from 2010 to 2011. Within the five-year period, there has been an average of about 1.8 million new entrants in to the active labour market

per year.

This study is scope around youths in Kwara State with specific attention to Irepodun Local Government of the Kwara South Senatorial District. This study aimed at analyzing the root cause of lack job and available opportunities for teeming youths in this region. Additionally, entrepreneurship support programmes carried out by the government through legislatures were put into consideration as it often times come as a life guard to empowering youths or the constituent as the case may be. This study would be of significant impact on existing youth entrepreneurs, potential entrepreneurs and entrepreneur's educators to alleviate the problem that youth faces. Also, it will further enlighten the government and its agencies in areas which demands immediate attention.

Research Objectives

- i. Examine how the entrepreneurship programmes can promote job creation aimed at reducing youth unemployment.

Literature Review

What is Entrepreneurship?

A definition of entrepreneurship has been debated among scholars, researchers, and even policy makers since the concept was first established in the early 1970s. Sternfioff and Burgers (1993) view entrepreneurship as the ability to develop a new venture or apply a new approach to an old business. According to Gana (2001), entrepreneurship is the ability to develop a new venture or apply a new approach to an old business. He views entrepreneurship as the ability to seek investment opportunities and persisting to exploit that opportunity. On the other hand, Anayakoha (2006) sees the entrepreneur as one who chooses or assumes risks, identifies business opportunity, gathers resources, initiates action and establishes an organization or enterprise to meet such demand or market opportunity.

Allawadi (2010) made a distinction between enterprise and entrepreneur. He describes the carrying out of new combinations as "enterprise" and the individual whose function it is to carry

them out as "entrepreneur". He further tied entrepreneurship to the creation of five basic new combinations of introduction of a new product, a new method of production, opening a new market, conquest of new source of supply and creating a new organization. Stevenson (2007) defines entrepreneurship as the pursuit of opportunity through innovative leverage of resources that for the most part are not controlled internally. Though the idea that entrepreneurs are innovators is largely acceptable it may be difficult to apply the same theory to less developed countries (LDCs). Allawadi (2010) argued that LDCs rarely produce brand new products; rather they imitate products and production processes that have been invented elsewhere in developed countries. He refers to this practice as "creative imitation".

Frequently, entrepreneurship is thought to apply only to the management of small businesses such as roadside furniture makers, cobbler, tyre vulcanizers, and hairdressers and so on, but recent giants like Dell computers and Microsoft have shown how a small business that started small can grow into a conglomerate if given an enabling environment. Drucker (1998) proposes that entrepreneurship is a practice. What this means is that entrepreneurship is not a state of being nor is it characterised by making plans that are not acted upon. One argument may be that entrepreneurship begins with actions which involve the creation of new organization which may or may not be self-sustaining nor earn significant revenue. Regardless of the outcomes, when an individual creates a new organization, he has entered the entrepreneurship paradigm. Some individuals apply the concept of entrepreneurship to the creation of any new business, while others focus on intentions believing that entrepreneurs merely seek to create wealth. This is different from starting a business as a means of working for yourself rather than working for others. Others tend to confuse managing a small business with entrepreneurship. But Stevenson (2007) argued that not all small business managers are entrepreneurs because they don't innovate.

Therefore, a definition which seems to fully capture the true meaning of entrepreneurship is the one provided by Stevenson (2007) as a process in which individuals pursue opportunities fulfilling needs and wants through innovation together with the attendant risks. Based on the above definitions, it can be concluded that entrepreneurship is the process of carefully determining and analyzing unmet needs through creatively satisfying those needs by bearing the related risks. By combining the above thoughts, it can be argued that entrepreneurs are risk bearers, coordinators, organizers, gap-fillers, leaders and innovators.

Entrepreneurship and Youth Unemployment in Nigeria

Former president Umaru Yar'Adua's administration formulated a seven-point agenda aimed at transforming Nigeria into one of 20 global economics by the 2020. The seven-point agenda include "power and energy, food security, wealth creation and employment, transportation, security and functional education and the pursuance of the rule of law. Nigerians have heard similar policy pronouncements in the past, only to be disappointed by inaction. The vision 2020 program and the seven-point agenda may not be achieved without infrastructural technological capability. According to Mohan (2003) no society has become an industrialized nation without technological capability. It is believed that an effective technological culture must take its roots from a functional vocational/technical curriculum which will serve as a "watering ground" for entrepreneurship and economic growth and development. This means that Nigeria needs a new paradigm for effective transformation of its economy and educational institutions, particularly vocational and technical education.

The way forward is for society to start changing their perception about technicians, vocational education and other "hand-workers" in general which include entrepreneurs. The worth of any

worker should depend on the person's skills and knowledge as opposed to number of academic degrees as the sole criterion for career advancement. For any individual to compete effectively in a rapidly evolving knowledge-based global economy, he or she must possess relevant job competencies, including technical, business, cultural, decision-making and intellectual competencies which could be obtained in a well-conceived functional vocational curricula. If the Nigerian government must revitalize its economy some shift in policy that are critical to effective entrepreneurship programmes become imperative and they include the following:

- Embrace External Competition to Promote Innovation: Many governments show a tendency toward preventing external competition as a way of protecting local industries especially during economic downturn. Another policy action may involve granting subsidies to both failing and inefficient industries. But Ernst and Young (2009) argue that such fiscal policy may not only invite greater inefficiency but also deter innovation which is critical to economic growth. In other words, innovators depend on society's appetite for constant improvement.
- Give Newcomers Equal Opportunity with the Old: Some leaders erroneously believe in the discomfiture of beginners. It can be argued that motivated entrepreneurs may want to be challenged to show success if given a chance. Past performance may not always be a good predictor for tomorrow. In other words, the market leaders of today may not necessarily be the market leaders of tomorrow.
- State Governments Should Develop Its Own Innovative Strategies to Promote Entrepreneurial Activity in Its Area: Although many law makers and top government officials realize the potential of new enterprises in promoting employment growth, a centralized administration of entrepreneurial activities have tended to impede their effectiveness. Governments should discontinue

entrepreneurial policies that seem to suggest a one-size-fits-all approach. For example, school curricula are the same across the country even though there is marked difference in academic achievement between the North and South and even between the East and West of Nigeria. Due to the socio-cultural diversity inherent in developing countries like Nigeria, entrepreneurial policies that are unique and indigenous to the respective states should be vigorously pursued.

Government Should Recognize and Reward Innovation: Records by the American Executive Office (1983) show that new business with less than ten employees have a little less than a 75 percent chance of surviving the first year, and only about one chance in three (33%) of lasting four years or more. Therefore, given the likelihood of failure, government should offer regulations, a tax system and adequate protection for intellectual property to spur more desire for innovation. Society's support for entrepreneurship should continue because support is critical in providing motivation. The media can play a powerful and constructive role through appropriate reportage on entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting success cases. Similarly, big companies should promote a strong nexus in entrepreneurship-intrapreneurship through functional research and development efforts.

Theoretical Review

Sociological Theories: The following theories explain how sociological factors accelerate the growth of entrepreneurs: 1-Theory of religious beliefs 2- Theory of social change. Theory of religious beliefs Max Weber has propounded the theory of religious belief. According to him, entrepreneurship is a function of religious beliefs and impact of religion shapes the entrepreneurial culture. He emphasized that entrepreneurial energies are exogenous supplied by means of religious beliefs. The important elements of Weber's theory are discussed further- 1- Spirit of Capitalism-in the Webrian theory, spirit of capitalism is highlighted. We all know that

capitalism is an economic system in which economic freedom and private enterprise are glorified, so also the entrepreneurial culture. 2- Adventurous Spirit- Weber also made a distinction between spirit of capitalism and adventurous spirit. According to him, the former is influenced by the strict discipline whereas the latter is affected by free force of impulse. Entrepreneurship culture is influenced by both these factors. 3- Protestant ethic- according to Max Weber the spirit of capitalism can be grown only when the mental attitude in the society is favorable to capitalism 4 - Inducement of profit- Weber introduced the new businessman into the picture of tranquil routine. The spirit of capitalism intertwined with the motive of profit resulted in creation of greater number of business enterprises.

In fact, this theory suited the British rulers, who desired to encourage European entrepreneurship in India. This theory was vehemently criticized by many researchers because of the unrealistic assumptions. Theory of Social Change Everett E. Hagen, in his theory of social change propounded how a traditional society becomes one in which continuing technical progress takes place. The theory exhorts the following feature which presumes the entrepreneur's creativity as the key element of social transformation and economic growth. Presentation of general model of the society- the theory reveals a general model of the society which considers interrelationship among physical environment, social structure, personality and culture. Economic Growth: product of social change and political change: According to Hagen, most of the economic theories of underdevelopment are inadequate. Rejection of follower's syndrome: Hagen rejected the idea that the solution to economic development lies in imitating western technology. So the follower's syndrome on the part of the entrepreneur, is discouraged.

Historic shift as a factor of initiating change- Hagen in his book, *How Economic Growth Begins*, depicts historic shift as the crucial force which has

brought about social change technological progress thereby leading to the emergence of entrepreneurial class from different castes and communities. Withdrawal of status respects as the mechanism for rigorous entrepreneurial activity- Closely consistent with the historic shift it is the social group that plunges into rigorous entrepreneurship which experiences the status withdrawal or withdrawal of status respects. Hence, Hagen's creative personality is the admixture of Schumpeter's innovation and McClelland's high need for achievement. But Hagen's analysis fails to give policy measures for backward countries which are striving for economic development as he identifies status withdrawal as the causal factor in the emergence of creative personality. Hagen's thesis of disadvantaged minority groups has its own limitations. There are many disadvantaged minority groups in India which have not supplied a good number of entrepreneurs.

Empirical Review

Almeida (2017) carried out a study on learning entrepreneurship with serious games - A classroom approach. The use of educational games for pedagogical practice can provide new conceptions of teaching-learning in an interactive environment stimulating the acquisition of new knowledge. The so-called serious games are focused on the goal of transmitting educational content or training to the user. In the context of entrepreneurship, serious games appear to have greater importance due to the multidisciplinary of the knowledge needed. Therefore, we propose the adoption of the Entexplorer game in the context of a university classroom. The game is a cloud-based serious game about the theme of entrepreneurship where users can access learning contents that will assist them in the acquisition of entrepreneurial skills. The organization of the game in eight levels with six additional floors let students learn the different dimensions of an entrepreneurship project while progressing during the game play.

Iro-Idoro and Jimoh (2017) carried out a study on entrepreneurship education and self-efficacy strategies for reducing unemployment problem among Nigerian graduates. The paper considered entrepreneurship education and self-efficacy as strategies for reducing unemployment problems among Nigerian graduates. Based on a survey of 180 Unemployed graduates seeking employment through Integrated Corporate Services Limited (ICSL) and Vic Lawrence & Associates Limited (VLA) recruiting firms, this paper analyzes graduates' unemployment level and its influencing factors (i.e. Entrepreneurship education and Self-efficacy). Two hypotheses were raised and regression was used to analyze the data collected. The research result shows that entrepreneurship education and self-efficacy are important factors in determining the intention to entrepreneurship therefore reducing the level of unemployment in Nigeria. There is an urgent need for all tertiary institutions in Nigeria to comply with the presidential directives to the effect that entrepreneurship education be made compulsory for all students in tertiary institutions in Nigeria, irrespective of their areas of specialization. The findings also indicate that there is a statistically significant relationship among entrepreneurship education, self-efficacy and unemployment problem. It was found that the acquisition of skills, ideas and abilities management necessary for job creation

involve strong entrepreneurship education and self-efficacy which can promotes employment rather than seeking for an employment. It was recommended among others that the scope of the entrepreneurship education should be extended to include technical, managerial and business skills.

Research Method

This study adopted the survey strategy in assessing the existing phenomenon in the study area. It took into consideration the overview population of the geopolitical zone of the study (i.e. Kwara South) and a case study strategy was employed to substantiate the peculiarity of the study as it focus in a recognized study area. Additionally, this study employed the primary means of data gathering with the aid of a close ended questionnaire which is divided into two basic sections which are demographic which has the bio data of the respondents and the second section which was designed to inquire into statements which are aimed at getting answers to questions raised. Also, out of 64,315 population of habitants of Irepodun with special attention to residents of major towns which are Omu- Aran, Oro, Ajase-Ipo, Esie and Oko with a constituted sample of 204 using Taro Yamane sampling method and out of which 169 copies of questionnaire were returned for analysis. Hence, this study employed the use of regression analysis in analyzing the collected data.

Discussion of Findings

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of the Respondents

Respondent's Characteristics	Levels	Number of respondents	Percentage (100%)
Gender	Male	71	42.0
	Female	98	58.0
	Total	169	100.0
Age	15-25	27	16.0
	26-30	125	74.0
	34-41	15	8.9
	42-45	1	.6
	45 & above	1	.6
	Total	169	100.0
Marital Status	Single	117	69.2
	Married	44	26.0
	Divorce	6	3.6
	Widowed	2	1.2
	Total	117	100.0
Level of Education	SSCE	8	4.7
	OND/NCE	81	47.9
	B.SC/BED/HND	79	46.7
	MSC/MBA	1	.6

	Total	169	100.0
Professional Status	Entrepreneurs	101	59.8
	Apprenticeship	33	19.5
	Salary earner	35	20.7
	Total	169	100.0

Source: Research Survey, 2019

The table 1 above shows the different demographic variables we have in the research with their levels. It was observed that respondent with age 15-45 has highest number involving in the study than other age groups with 98 females and 71 males. Consequently, most of the respondents were found to be single and

only 44 were found to be in marriage. 47.9% of the respondents have OND/NCE and other categories of the level of education have low percentage. Additionally, 59.8% of the respondents were entrepreneurship professionals, while 19.5% and 20.7% are Apprenticeship and Salary earner.

Table 2: Entrepreneurship Development Programmes

S/N	VARIABLES	Strongly agree	Agree	Undecided	disagree	Strongly disagree
1	Does the power of entrepreneurship reduce youth Unemployment?	132(78.1%)	22(13.0%)	13(7.7%)	_____	2(1.2%)
2	Does Entrepreneurship training enhance innovation and resilience in youth?	51(30.2%)	45(26.6%)	18(10.7%)	2(1.2%)	53(31.4%)
3	Can the standard of living of the people be improved through entrepreneurship education	52(30.8%)	43(25.4%)	13(7.7%)	10(5.9%)	51(30.2%)
4	Does Vocational training organized by the local government is of immense advantage to the youth	40(23.7%)	45(26.6%)	16(9.5%)	14(8.3%)	53(31.4%)
5	Does Personal entrepreneurial skill improve social welfare?	114(67.5%)	37(21.9%)	5(3.0%)	6(3.6%)	7(4.1%)
6	Is personal entrepreneurial knowledge a catalyst to social welfare?	36(21.3%)	108(33.9%)	17(10.1%)	5(3.0%)	3(1.8%)
7	Will self-employment and vocational training be a mechanism to generate employment for youth	84(49.7%)	63(37.3%)	12(7.1%)	1(6%)	9(5.3%)
8	Does Equipping youth with scientific, technical and factual base with good background information and research skills reduce unemployment?	50(29.6%)	91(53.8%)	23(13.3%)	2(1.2%)	3(1.8%)
9	Is there availability and easy access to finance and credit for development of business?	50(29.6%)	86(50.9%)	17(10.1%)	7(4.1%)	9(5.3%)
10	Does the clear understanding of personal entrepreneurial skills and its correct application greatly influence economic opportunities and trends	42(24.9%)	61(36.1%)	22(13.0%)	37(21.9%)	7(4.1%)
11	As the intervention mechanism such as SURE P, YOUWIN, KEYS help to address some of the socio-psychological problems and delinquency that arise from joblessness	92(54.4%)	47(27.8%)	15(8.9%)	11(6.5%)	4(2.4%)

Source: Research Survey, 2019

From Table 2 above, question one has (132) respondents, representing 78.1% strongly agree,

(22) respondent agree to the statement representing 13.0%, 13 and 2 respondent fall

between undecided and strongly disagree where no respondent was present in disagree with a percentage of 7.7% and 1.2%. The question two of the part C has 51 respondent strongly agree representing 30.2%, 45 respondent with the opinion of agree has a percentage of 26.6%, 18 respondent undecided representing 10.7%, 2 respondent disagree with a percentage of 1.2%, 53 respondent strongly disagree with statement two and has percentage of 31.4%. While 52 respondent strongly agree to statement three, representing 30.8%, 43 agree with 25.4%, 13 are undecided with 7.7%, 10 respondent disagree with the statement with a 5.4%, 51 respondent are strongly disagree representing 30.2%.

Also from the table, 40 respondent are strongly agree to statement four representing 23.7%, 45 respondent agree representing 26.6%, 16 respondent are undecided with a percentage of 9.5%, 14 respondent disagree with the statement four representing 8.3%, 53 of the respondent strongly disagree with a 31.4%. Also the statement five has 114 respondent strongly agree representing 67.5%, 37 respondent agree, representing 21.9%, 5 respondent are undecided representing 3.0%, 6 respondent disagree with the statement representing 3.6%, 7 respondent strongly disagree, representing 4.1%. While 36 respondent strongly agree with statement six representing 21.3%, 108 respondent agree, representing 63.9%, 17 respondent are undecided, representing 10.1%, 5 respondent disagree with statement six representing 3.0%, 3 respondent strongly disagree, representing 1.8%. Where 84 respondents strongly agree with statement seven, representing 49.7%, 63 respondents agree, representing 37.3%, 12 respondents are undecided, representing 7.1%, 1

respondent disagree, representing 0.6%, 9 respondents strongly disagree, representing 5.3%.

Statement eight (8) from the table 4.2.2 has 50 respondents strongly agree, representing 29.6%, 91 respondents agree, representing 53.8%, 23 respondent are undecided, representing 13.6%, 2 respondent disagree, representing 1.2%, 3 respondent strongly disagree, representing 1.8%. Also statement nine (9) has 50 respondents strongly agree, representing 29.6%, 36 respondents agree, representing 50.9%, 17 respondents are undecided, representing 10.1%, 7 respondents disagree, representing 4.1%, 9 respondent strongly disagree, representing 5.3%. Interestingly, 42 respondents strongly agree to statement 10 representing 24.9%, 61 respondents agree, representing 36.1%, 22 respondents are undecided, representing 13.0%, 37 respondents disagree, representing 21.9%, 7 respondents strongly disagree, representing 4.1%. Statement (11) eleven has 92 respondents strongly agree, representing 54.4%, 47 respondent agree to the statement, representing 27.8%, 15 respondent are undecided, representing 8.9%, 11 respondent disagree, representing 6.5%, 4 respondent strongly disagree, representing 2.4% from the analysis.

The analysis above show that question 1 has the highest number of strongly agree with 132 responses, question 5 has 114 responses of strongly agree, question 7 with 84 strongly agree responses, statement 11 has 92 responses of strongly agree, all this are factors indicating a significant role of entrepreneurship development programmes on youth employment. The figure6-9 below shows the descriptive statistics of the above information graphically.

Test of Hypotheses

H₀₁ Entrepreneurship programme has no significant effect on the youth unemployment

Table 3: Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.789 ^a	.622	.618	.55320

a. Predictors: (Constant), EP

Table 3 model summary above illustrates that the correlation coefficient r is 0.789, which indicates that there exists a very strong relationship between youth unemployment (dependent variable) that is being predicted and entrepreneurship programmes (independent variables). It is also clear from the table that the r^2

which is the coefficient of determination is 0.622 approximately 62%. This implies that more than half of the percentage i.e. 62% change in youth unemployment can be explained by the improvement in availability of entrepreneurship programmes.

Table 4: ANOVA^a

Model		Sum of Squares	Df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	45.360	1	45.360	148.223	.000 ^b
	Residual	27.542	168	.306		
	Total	72.902	169			

a. Dependent Variable: YU

b. Predictors: (Constant), EP

Table 4 above presents the ANOVA table. The F-statistic as shown from the table is significant since the probability value of .000 is less than the alpha level of 0.05, thus the model is fit.

Therefore, the null hypothesis is rejected and the alternative hypothesis is accepted. This implies that, entrepreneurship programmes do have significant influence on youth unemployment.

Table 5: Coefficients^a

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	-.508	.576		-.883	.380
	EP	1.086	.089	.789	12.175	.000

a. Dependent Variable: YP

Table 5 presents the coefficient of independent variables. The coefficient of entrepreneurship programmes of 1.086 suggests that there exists a positive relationship between entrepreneurship programmes and youth unemployment. This shows that for every increase in that predictor (entrepreneurship programmes), youth employment will slightly increase by 0.86%. In addition, the probability and [t-statistics] value of .000 and [12.175] further suggests that the relationship between entrepreneurship programme and youth unemployment is significant since alpha level of 0.05 is greater than the p-value. The above analysis indicates that entrepreneurship programme does have influence on the youth unemployment and this finding is in line with the works of Almeida (2017); Iro-Idoro and Jimoh (2017).

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study concludes that entrepreneurship programmes mostly floated by the government and its agencies does significantly affect the rate of youth unemployment. These programmes creates opportunities for teeming youths especially the unemployed youth in engaging in resourceful work which assist in keep them busy and self reliance thereby significantly reducing the rate of unemployment. This study recommends that intensive attention needs to be given to entrepreneurship programmes so as to further reduce the rate of unemployment in Nigeria. This can be seen in the level of relationship in the coefficient figure as it was quite low and not encouraging. It is therefore important that more

programmes be introduced to further reduce the rate of unemployment.

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